[12th March 1955

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The question whether the maintenance of Minor Irrigation Works should be with the Public Works Department or with the Revenue Department has been the subject of controversy for nearly a century. The question was revived in 1946 by the then Ministry as there had been for some time previously several representations from the ryots of the State that Minor Irrigation Works should be entrusted to the Public Works Department. In view of these representations and in order to have a unified control over irrigation works, the Government examined the question and decided that the proposal might be tried as an experiment in the Chingleput district, where sources connected irrigation system could be transferred from the charge of the Revenue Department to that of the Public Works Department. The Government accordingly directed that 249 minor irrigation works in the Kancheepuram basin and 234 such works in the Chingleput basin lying to the north of the river Palar in the Chingleput district be transferred from the charge of the Revenue Department to that of the Public Works Department. They were however retransferred to the Revenue Department in 1952 after a careful examination of the results of the experiment. Only eight minor irrigation sources formerly of Saidapet taluk now lying in Madras City limits have been transferred from the control of the Revenue Department to that of the Public Works in 1953 as the Madras Collector has no Minor Irrigation staff."

SRI S. THINAKARASAMI THEVAR :—" May I know whether the fact that the Revenue Department people have not got the technical qualification of supervision and check-measurement with regard to repairs to minor irrigation tanks is the only reason for transferring these minor irrigation to the Public Works Department? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Now, it is re-transferred to the Revenue Department."

Panchayat Board, Nellikuppam.

* 1286 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government received any representation in December 1954, from the members of the Nellikuppam Panchayat Board, South Arcot district, regarding the irregularities in the Panchayat Board, Nellikuppam?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir."